

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02556 120036 Z

62

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER' S STATEMENT ON CUBA AND THE MALVINAS
ISLANDS

DEPT PASS USDEL OASGA

1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA ADVOCATES AN OASGA
DECISION GRANTING INDIVIDUAL NATIONS FREEDOM OF ACTION TO RENEW
RELATIONS WITH CUBA, AND THE GOA ACCUSES THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
FOOTDRAGGING SINCE THE OCTOBER 1972 BILATERAL AGREEMENT ESTAB-
LISHING AN AIR LINK BETWEEN PUERTO STANLEY (MALVINAS ISLANDS)
AND COMODORO RIVADAVIA (ARGENTINE MAINLAND). SEE BA A-567)
NO ACTION REQUIRED.

2. THE PRESS QUOTES FOREIGN MINISTER MC LAUGHLIN ON APR 10
UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS FOLLOWS:
" THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT THE SAME WORLD EVOLUTION THAT BRINGS
TO THE FORE THE NEED TO TRANSFORM THE OAS APPLIES TH THE
DECISION MADE TEN YEARS AGOWITH RESPECT TO CUBA. ARGENTINE
POLICY IN THIS SENSE HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN RECENT YEARS AND
HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST IDEOLOGICAL BARRIERS. OUR NATION SETS
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 02556 120036 Z

FORTH THE NECESSITY OF OPENING A ROAD TO ACHIEVE FREEDOM OF ACTION TO THOSE COUNTRIES THAT CONSIDER RENEWING RELATIONS WITH CUBA NECESSARY TO THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS." HE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THE WEAKENING OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE OAS BY UNILATERAL DECISIONS (CONTRARY TO OAS DECISION) SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

3. MC LOUGHLIN ALSO STATED THAT " DURING THEIR FIRST YEARS THE MALVINAS ISLANDS' NEGOTIATIONS WERE TRULY ACTIVE AND ACHIEVED GOOD RESULTS, BUT SINCE 1972 GREAT BRITAIN HAS CONVERTED THE NEGOTIATIONS INTO SIMPLE CONVERSATIONS. THIS EXPLAINS OUR NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ENTRY OF GREAT BRITAIN AS AN OAS OBSERVER HE CONCLUDED.

4. COMMENT: FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES (NORTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT) CORROBORATE THE FOREIGN MINISTER' S IMPLICATION THAT EVEN IF THE OAS DOES NOT GRANT FREEDOM OF ACTION TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH

CUBA, THE POST- MAY 25, 1973 ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL NEVERTHE- LESS DO SO, ALBEIT CONTRARY TO THE 1964 OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS' DECISION AND THE GOA PREFERENCE TO ESTABLISH ITS FOREIGN POLICY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AGREEMENTS. LODGE

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